



# TRIBAL ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS

*An intergovernmental association of tribal governments throughout Southern California*

March 31, 2008

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20015

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20015.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS:

AGUA CALIENTE BAND  
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

AUGUSTINE BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS

CABAZON BAND  
OF MISSION INDIANS

CAHUILLA BAND  
OF INDIANS

CHEMEHUEVI INDIAN  
TRIBE

MORONGO BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS

PECHANGA BAND OF  
LUISEÑO INDIANS

RAMONA BAND OF  
CAHUILLA INDIANS

SAN MANUEL BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS

SANTA ROSA BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS

SANTA YNEZ BAND OF  
CHUMASH INDIANS

SOBOBA BAND OF  
LUISEÑO INDIANS

TORRES MARTINEZ  
DESERT CAHUILLA

TWENTY-NINE PALMS  
BAND OF  
MISSION INDIANS

**RE: H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115 – OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith:

The Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN), an intergovernmental association of 13 federally recognized Indian tribes in Southern California, writes in opposition to H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115. These bills would settle a purported land claim and allow two tribes to build casinos away from their reservations and on the ancestral and former treaty lands of another tribe.

TASIN has opposed efforts by two tribes in California and their casino developers to conduct off-reservation gaming on the ancestral lands of other TASIN member tribes. Not coincidentally, this same developer behind the controversial California proposal is also behind this effort in Michigan. Proposals to authorize off-reservation gaming outside of a tribe's ancestral lands has undermined the integrity, purpose and support for Indian gaming across the nation.

As importantly, these bills undermine a key provision of tribal-state compacts between the state of Michigan and Michigan tribes that an application for land into trust for gaming purposes outside of eligible tribal lands cannot be submitted to the Secretary of Interior without the prior agreement of the petitioning tribe and the State's other federally recognized tribes.

We urge you to reject H.R. 2176 and H.R. 4115.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Valbuena  
Chairwoman

cc: California Congressional Delegation